



**+IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George Harry HOFFMAN et al.  
Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR LANDED COST  
REPORTING IN A SUPPLY CHAIN  
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK  
Appl. No.: 09/816,491  
Filing Date: 03/23/2001  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: 2161

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT AND DISCLOSURE**

RSI prior to the claimed invention negotiated and manually administered master supplier contracts and master distributor contracts that assigned various supplier-distributor and distributor-store relationships, and which established a contract price for an item and an invoice price for the item that is different from the contract price and which may require a supplier to take an advance position in a raw material. Such master contract data was not accessible via a network for use in an automated process. RSI also manually used electronically-calculated least cost algorithms wherein selected parameters were forced manually for selecting suppliers and routes, but the least cost algorithm calculation and forcing was not fully integrated into a system accessible via a network and there was no automated interrelated process that was reviewable on the network on demand by registered independent supply chain users. Previous applications from this assignee which include one or more of the features in these claims are 09/815606, 09/816560, 09/816268, 09/816507, 09/816896, 09/815668, 09/816421, 09/815489, 09/816420, 09/816048 among others. It is possible that the foregoing disclosure may be pertinent to any claims in the assignee applications that claimed a manual master contract negotiation step as one of the elements of the combination claim.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

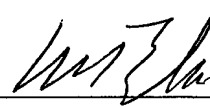
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

12/23/04

By



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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: December 23, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		<b>Application Number</b>	09/816,491
		<b>Filing Date</b>	March 23, 2001
		<b>First Named Inventor</b>	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
		<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2161
		<b>Examiner Name</b>	Unassigned
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	062834-0117		
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
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<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Sheet	2	of	3		

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### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

### NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>
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		Stephanie Stahl, "A Whopping Inventory Task - Burger King's purchasing agency lures suppliers online to streamline its huge distribution system", INFORMATIONWEEK, 1994	

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Sheet 3 of 3

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